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[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

MEASURES TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF PLAGUE.—INTERSTATE  
INSPECTION.

*Sanitary inspection of railway service at San Francisco, Cal.*

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., May 27, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to submit a report of the transactions during the past week. I have nominated and employed 23 sanitary inspectors up to date.

Drs. McQuesten and McGeer have been assigned to duty at Reno, Nev., and Ashland, Oreg., respectively, and have been instructed to inspect all trains leaving the State.

We have now the railway service well organized and in full operation. I have placed a corps of sanitary inspectors at the various exits of the city, namely, the ferries and depots, whose duties are to inspect all Chinese and Japanese and other Asiatics desiring to procure passage on any common carrier; to countersign certificates issued by the board of health stating that the holder has received an injection of the Haffkine prophylactic, and to countersign such certificates if presented a second time for tickets. This latter precaution is taken to prevent a transference of these certificates.

Three sanitary inspectors, with Acting Assistant Surgeon Ransom, have been assigned to this duty. Two sanitary inspectors have been placed on the ferries at Sausalito and Tiburon for the purpose of inspecting all passengers arriving on ferryboats at the railway terminals with the intention of taking passage on railways, and also with particular reference to any applying there for tickets on railways whose identity or previous whereabouts can not be established. These sanitary inspectors also make an inspection of trains from the respective ferries to San Rafael, a point about 15 miles beyond. Sanitary inspectors are also stationed at Oakland and Alameda wharves and the Southern Pacific Depot in the city, whose duties are practically the same as outlined for Sausalito and Tiburon. In addition, there are 4 inspectors who board all trains leaving San Francisco for San José and inspect the passengers taken on from here to San José. A similar corps of inspectors is assigned to the same duties on railroads running out of Oakland and Alameda. There are 3 inspectors on the northern route, that is, from Oakland to Niles Junction, and 1 from Alameda to San José.

I have assigned Assistant Surgeon Lloyd, who had previous experience in train inspection, to the supervision of the inspection service out of Oakland and Alameda.

I have assigned Assistant Surgeon Wilson for the same duty on the road running from San Francisco to San José. The water patrol has been placed in charge of Assistant Surgeon Kerr, who has 4 sanitary inspectors to assist him. A night and day patrol service is maintained, as well as an inspection of all vessels leaving San Francisco through the Golden Gate or bound to any part of the bay.

The inspection of freight has been assigned to Assistant Surgeon Ames. I am yet in need of 2 additional officers, 1 of whom should have had experience in this work. I have had considerable difficulty in obtaining launches for the purpose of maintaining a patrol. This is due to the fact that this part of the work is not very acceptable to the boatmen of the bay on account of the large inducements held out by the Chinese to be taken across the bay by these persons. I have telegraphed you the main facts relative thereto.

So far as can be ascertained by the officers on duty, as well as from the sanitary inspectors, there is very little movement of either Japanese or Chinese at the present time; few arriving in the city, and a few are still departing. I have enjoined all inspectors to be particularly careful to note the movements of this class of persons, whether they come from San Francisco or not. It is only in this way that it can be determined whether there is an attempt being made to evade the patrol as now existing.

The city police department, through the board of health, has rendered good service in maintaining a patrol of the water front, as well as on the county line. I am now attempting to make an inspection of the outlying districts, and expect to extend this just as fast as it is possible. I have notified the surrounding cities and villages to keep a sharp lookout for any Japanese or Chinese arriving at their places, and to ascertain, if possible, whence they came. I have also suggested to them to keep the Chinese and Japanese population under a sanitary supervision. This latter particularly applying to San José, Sacramento, Stockton, and Oakland. I have reports from all these cities stating that this is being done. Little, if any, progress has been made with regard to the problems in this city, the board of health having practically done nothing toward a house-to-house inspection. So far as the true sanitary condition of Chinese quarters is concerned, the efforts of the board have availed nothing. I am informed by the president of the board of health, Dr. Williamson, that 10 inspectors with 10 policemen are now making a daily inspection of Chinese quarters which contain at least 25,000 people. This, of course, is a physical impossibility, not to say anything from a medical standpoint.

The press is still attacking the board of health in every way it can, and is fully and cordially supported by one of the mercantile associations of this city. They have issued a circular which is now being scattered broadcast over the city and I presume over parts of the United States, in which it is stated that the Federal authorities, joined with the State and local authorities, have stated no plague exists in San Francisco. I have taken occasion to call them to task about the misrepresentation of facts, particularly with reference to me as the Federal authority responsible for the statement. I have stated to all that plague infection exists in the Chinese quarter and will exist until a strong, determined, and concerted effort is made to eradicate it.

I have appeared by invitation before a joint meeting of the chamber of commerce, the produce exchange, and shippers' association, and have stated to them the facts as they now exist.

Now that the Chinese have brought suit in the United States court to test the validity of the law of 1890, the Chinese and Japanese have been led to believe that it will be decided in their favor. Whether this will be or not is a question. The Japanese filed a similar suit yesterday evening, but have concluded to await the decision of the first case as their conditions are practically similar.

I will make a separate report on the Haffkine inoculations.

Respectfully,

J. J. KINYOUN,  
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

*Inspection at Needles, Cal.—Suspicious death of a Mojave Indian.*

NEEDLES, CAL., June 2, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to submit my report for the week ended June 1, 1900: Inspection of all Santa Fe Pacific Railroad east bound pas-